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LETTER DATED 6 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALBANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Alfred Serreqi, addressed to Your Excellency.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Thanas SHKURTI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 6 August 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing this urgent letter to inform you of a further serious aggravation of tension on the Albanian-Yugoslav border, which can be conducive to very dangerous consequences, a spill-over of the war in the south of the Balkans. Today, on 6 August 1993, Serbian military forces perpetrated two successive acts of provocation by opening automatic rifle fire in the direction of Albanian territory, against Albanian frontier guards and inhabitants of a border village. As a result of the provocations, a 20-year-old soldier was killed, another soldier, 20 years old, was seriously wounded and a 26-year-old villager was also wounded.

The Serbian military provocations against Albanian military forces and peaceful inhabitants of Albanian villages are taking place right after the worldwide condemnable decision of the Belgrade Government on the expulsion of the CSCE monitoring mission from Kosova. At that time the Albanian Government issued the warning that the expulsion of the CSCE monitoring mission would lead to increased tension and extension of the Serbian war strategy to Kosova and beyond. In the wake of Belgrade's arbitrary decision two very dangerous phenomena are evident: drastic escalation of repression and terror in Kosova where more than 2 million Albanians live, and the occurrence of grave military incidents and provocations committed on the border with Albania.

Serbia's goal to cause tension and create hotbeds of war for a larger scale conflagration in the Balkans is clear. Today's grave acts of provocation bear witness to an out-and-out policy of war of the Belgrade Government, which should be viewed from the angle of the entire criminal policy of war that this Government has been pursuing at all stages of the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. The killing and wounding of Albanian soldiers and inhabitants on Albanian territory are evidence of a prepared and premeditated provocation. It was preceded by the so-called Note on previous incidents allegedly committed by the Albanian side. The Note was refuted by the Albanian Government and the EC monitoring mission.

Inasmuch as the exacerbation of this dangerous situation on the Albanian-Yugoslav border is an issue that concerns the United Nations Security Council and all the other international forums as well,

Since the escalation of tension in Kosova and on the border with Albania is testimony to the war policy Serbia is pursuing at a time when the international diplomacy has gone all out to prevent it, we deem it necessary, distinguished Madam, to request:

1. An urgent meeting of the Security Council to take up for discussion the situation created by Serbia on its border with Albania and the adoption of measures to bring pressure to bear on Serbia to give up and stop its dangerous military provocations.

2. An immediate interference of the Security Council by urgently dispatching monitoring missions to the border with Serbia and to Kosova.

I express my belief in your action and in the action of the Security Council, convinced that the urgency of the situation will be duly assessed and measures be taken to prevent the flames of war from spreading to the Balkans.

(Signed) Alfred SERREQI
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Albania